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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 14 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the texts of the Cracow Declaration of the leaders of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland, as well as of the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three States concerning cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

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of the Czech and Slovak
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Annex I

DECLARATION OF THE LEADERS OF THE CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, MADE AT CRACOW ON 6 OCTOBER 1991

I

The leaders of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland, Mr. Václav Havel, Dr. József Antall and Mr. Lech Walesa, at their meeting at Cracow on 6 October 1991 reviewed the results of their trilateral cooperation and the tasks for its further development.

The participants of the summit meeting noted with satisfaction that the Czechoslovak-Hungarian-Polish cooperation, which is the follow-up of the meetings at Bratislava and Visegrád, constitutes an essential contribution to the shaping of a new democratic international order in the region of Central and Central-Eastern Europe.

II

The Warsaw Treaty and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance - the ideological institutions which used to keep the States of Central and Central-Eastern Europe from their natural integration with the rest of the continent - have been dissolved.

The principal task set by Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland is full-range integration into the European political, economic and juridical as well as security system. In pursuit of the accomplishment of this aim the three States aspire most of all to an association with the European Communities, to an extension of relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including their institutionalization, also by means of an international agreement in accordance with the United States-German proposal of 2 October 1991 and the proposal of the Western European Union, as well as to the strengthening of the process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its institutions.

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Republic of Hungary are already members of the Council of Europe, and Poland is expected to adhere to it soon.

The participants in the meeting regard the comprehensive development of relations with the European Communities as a priority objective of their foreign policies. The three Central European countries express their hope to accomplish negotiations on their association with the European Communities as soon as possible.

Furthermore, they express their belief that agreements on association should lead to an integration of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland into the system of European political cooperation and to the achievement in the future of their full membership in the Communities.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland attach fundamental importance to safeguarding lasting security on the continent, especially in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. The Triangle States regard Europe as a single and indivisible territory where the security of each of the countries is indissolubly connected with the security of the others, and each will have equal conditions for preserving its own security.

III

Issues and problems emanating from recent developments in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which have a bearing on the three countries, have also been reviewed. While integrating into the European structures, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland will undertake a more and more active common policy towards States and nations of this neighbourly territory, supporting the ideals of freedom, democracy, human rights and the principle of all-European cooperation based on the principles and mechanisms of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

IV

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland express their deep concern about the Yugoslav crisis. The three countries reaffirm the necessity of resolving disputes in Yugoslavia exclusively by peaceful means.

The Triangle States demand the implementation of an effectively supervised cease-fire. The involvement of the army in resolving internal disputes is intolerable. In case of hostilities, the belligerents must strictly observe international humanitarian law relating to armed conflicts.

They condemn violations of international law relating to armed conflicts, especially attacks against civilians and civilian objects.

The three States support the strengthening of the team of observers, and favour sending international peace-keeping forces to Yugoslavia. Each of them is ready to take part in such and similar actions for the cause of peace.

The participants in the Cracow meeting pledge their support for the actions already undertaken by the European Communities, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations. These actions show that the Yugoslav crisis may be solved only by the involvement of the international community.

The three States stress the importance of the Conference at The Hague and express support for its decisions. The solution of the Yugoslav crisis must be based on the principle of self-determination of nations, including the right to statehood, full respect for the rights of national minorities and the principles of the inviolability of frontiers as well as the rules of democracy.

V

The leaders of the three countries highly appreciate the latest disarmament initiatives of the United States of America and the positive Soviet reaction to it, and express their hope that other nuclear Powers will soon take appropriate actions in the same direction.

They stress in common the fundamental importance for the future of Europe of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, calling on all States parties to the Treaty which have not yet done so to ratify it without delay.

VI

The leaders of the three States speak in favour of unlimited development of different forms of regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation, which can contribute to overcoming the division of Europe. The same task is set by cooperation in the framework of the Hexagonal Group.

The Triangle States propose the extension of transregional ties, paying special attention to those parts of the continent which have so far been excluded from the process of European integration. They regard as indispensible the creation of ties connecting Central Europe to the Baltic region as well as to other States and republics to the east of their borders.

VII

The leaders of the three States unanimously emphasized the importance that they attribute to association with the European Communities, which will exert essential influence not only on their economies, but also on trilateral cooperation. For this reason the three States will continue to exchange views and to harmonize their position on issues relating to the accomplishment of negotiations with the European Communities.

They stressed the importance and the pressing nature of some concrete and operative decisions of the Communities concerning so-called trilateral deliveries within the framework of aid provided for the USSR, so it cannot, in any case, be a substitute for the general liberalization of access to Community markets.

The three States note the serious difficulties arising from the dramatic decline in their exports to the USSR.

They will consider a common appeal to the European Communities for support which would, in spite of this decline, permit acceleration of the transformation and restructuring of their economies.

In parallel to that, they declare their will to take part in technical assistance programmes set by the Group of 24 in which they could share with the Soviet Union their experiences in proceeding from a centrally planned economy to a market economy.

The early accomplishment of negotiations on a free trade zone with the European Communities and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) would create an absolute necessity for urgent measures to abolish barriers to mutual trade. The three States declare their will to sign appropriate agreements on the mutual liberalization of trade as soon as possible.

The aim of such agreements will be to assure a degree of liberalization similar to that accorded within the Communities and EFTA. The Ministers of Foreign Economic Cooperation will meet in October 1991 at Warsaw in order to evaluate the progress of negotiations and to take decisions to ensure their rapid accomplishment.

Another important condition for stable and mutually beneficial development of economic cooperation is the free and efficient transfer of capital. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland are determined to undertake a step-by-step liberalization in this field in accordance with progress achieved in the transformation of their economies.

To this end:

- They have set up a working group consisting of representatives of Finance Ministries and Central Banks;

- They will urgently accomplish the preparation of conventions aimed at preventing double taxation, and of agreements to promote and protect investments;

- They will encourage common undertakings in the banking sector.

The three States reaffirmed the importance attached to economic cooperation in other fields.

They have decided:

- To continue the elaboration of common investment projects in the fields of transportation and communications;

- To set up a working group at the level of Ministers responsible for energy issues with the task of elaborating a cooperation programme aimed at diversifying their imports of energy resources;

- To continue the elaboration of regional environmental programmes, and to work out a common position on the United Nations conference to be held in Brazil in 1992.

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland intend to make the most of the support from the European Communities, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank for these undertakings. At a meeting to be held in November at Warsaw, the Ministers of Foreign Economic Cooperation will review the implementation of the decisions contained in this declaration, and will set the date of the next periodical review.

VIII

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland have decided to develop further and refine existing political and economic cooperation, and to coordinate their efforts aimed at building an all-European security system. They will also consistently cooperate in overcoming the divisions in the continent and in elaborating new forms of European integration.

Annex II

STATEMENT MADE AT CRACOW ON 5 OCTOBER 1991 BY THE THREE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING COOPERATION WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland, during their talks held at Cracow on 5 and 6 October 1991 on the occasion of the meeting of the leaders of the three countries, evaluated the present state and future perspectives of cooperation between their States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

They expressed their satisfaction with contacts maintained heretofore with NATO and agreed that events taking place in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in the Balkans, require the upgrading of contacts between their States and NATO.

Europe cannot sustain different kinds and different levels of security; security should be identical for all.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs are of the opinion that the present formula of "diplomatic liaisons" needs to be widened considerably in order to create conditions for direct involvement of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland in the activities of NATO.

Accordingly, they welcome the joint statement by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. James A. Baker III, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, made on 2 October 1991. They assert with satisfaction that the proposals contained in the statement reflect fully their concepts of the further development of cooperation between NATO and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland.

The Ministers of the three States will be glad to find these projects reflected in the decisions of the forthcoming NATO summit to be held at Rome, and express their States' readiness to begin as soon as possible concrete negotiations to achieve practical implementation of these projects.